

ONE TOWN. TWO MARINE LABS. ONE LIBRARY?
THE MARINE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING LIBRARIES OF MOSS
LANDING EXPERIMENT WITH COMMENSUALISM

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ABSTRACT: In late 1998 a unique set of circumstances provided an opportunity for the two marine science institutions of Moss Landing, California to propose a mutually beneficial arrangement for the provision of library services. The planning process, implementation to date, and future directions will be presented.

#1

Moss Landing, California, a community of a few hundred residents, is located in the center of the crescent defining the Monterey Bay with the Monterey Bay Submarine Canyon and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve as its front and back yards. For decades Moss Landing has been a fishing village most notably home to Phil's Fish Market. In 1965 a former cannery became the home of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML), a graduate school for the California State University. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake demolished MLML and sent its faculty, staff and students on a ten-year absence from Moss Landing. In 1996 the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) moved into its first permanent facility. This twelve-year old private, non-profit institute had selected Moss Landing as the ideal location before the demolition of MLML. MBARI's founder and visionary, David Packard, conceived of an organization that would build new tools for oceanography, creating access to the depths of the Monterey Bay Submarine Canyon and new research opportunities for its scientists.

#2

MBARI's 1996 move to Moss Landing meant the organization left behind access to the libraries of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Hopkins Marine Station. In 1997 MBARI hired its first full-time librarian and began assembling a collection of resources. Two years later, the Institute was faced with budget concerns, personnel changes, and the eminent return of MLML to a location equivalent to a walk across campus. MBARI elected to consider alternative methods of providing library services for its staff. I was hired as a consultant in December of 1998 to examine alternative strategies. As the librarian for Moss Landing Marine Laboratories it was a given that the clearest strategy was to link the libraries of these two institutions in some fashion. In March of 1999 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the directors of the respective institutions providing for a newly created library consortium, thereby effectively merging the

libraries of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

#3

MANAGEMENT -- one faculty librarian at MLML providing for the management, budgeting and planning of joint library as granted by overload provisions of the CSU faculty contract; one full-time support staff position at MBARI; two half-time graduate student assistants at MLML

COLLECTION -- MLML will emphasize all aspects of zoology, molecular marine biology and ecology, biogeochemistry, marine ecology, oceanography and toxicology. MBARI will have unique emphases on engineering, geology, marine chemistry, deep sea biology, oceanography, and scientific instrumentation. 15,000 monographs in combined collection. 120 shared print journal subscriptions plus 200 electronic journals.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES -- server will be maintained as a proxy for all users and when appropriate, shared electronic products will be served via this platform. When consortial prices are negotiated, each institution will be fiscally responsible for half of the cost of the subscription or service.

ACCESS -- members of the MLML and MBARI communities will have equal access to the respective Libraries with one exception. MLML students will be asked to request items from the MBARI Library via the MLML Library staff. The rules and guidelines for use of each Library will be posted and updated on the web sites of both institutions.

STAFFING . Each will be staffed independently; however, the management and direction of the MBARI Library will be provided by the same Librarian who serves MLML. While staff will normally work at their primary place of employment, cross-training will be implemented to provide back-up staffing in emergency situations. Staff at both Libraries will be expected to assist and provide service for employees and students of MBARI and MLML.